ÆSOP'S FABLES



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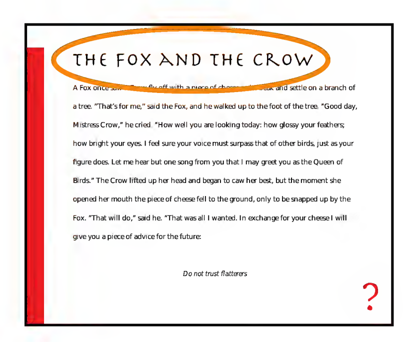
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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book contains several sections.

• Click the Bookmarks and Page button in the tool bar to display an electronic Table of Contents. Double-click the small page icon to the left of a bookmark name to jump to that page in the book.

• List of Fables by Title lists the fables in the order in which they appear in this book. Selecting any title will take you to that fable. Select the title on the first page of the fable to return to the List of Fables by Title.



THE FOX AND THE CROW

A Fox once sa[illegible] fly off with a piece of che[illegible]eak and settle on a branch of a tree. "That's for me," said the Fox, and he walked up to the foot of the tree. "Good day, Mistress Crow," he cried. "How well you are looking today: how glossy your feathers; how bright your eyes. I feel sure your voice must surpass that of other birds, just as your figure does. Let me hear but one song from you that I may greet you as the Queen of Birds." The Crow lifted up her head and began to caw her best, but the moment she opened her mouth the piece of cheese fell to the ground, only to be snapped up by the Fox. "That will do," said he. "That was all I wanted. In exchange for your cheese I will give you a piece of advice for the future:

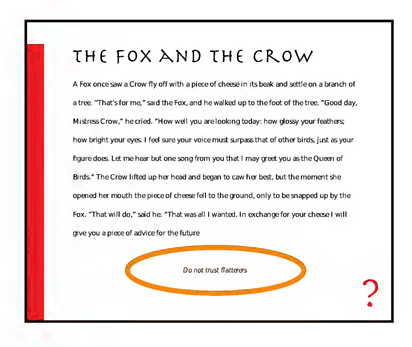
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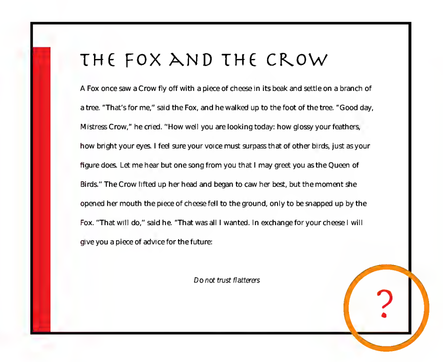
• Index of Titles lists the fable titles alphabetically. Selecting any title will take you to that fable. Click the Go Back button in the tool bar to return to the Index of Titles.

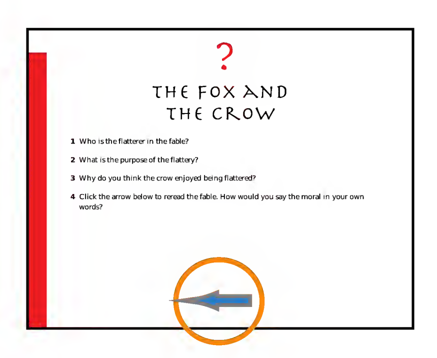
• Index of Morals lists the fable morals alphabetically. Selecting any moral will take you to that fable. Select the moral at the end of any fable to return to the Index of Morals.



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• Fable Questions encourages you to answer and ask new questions about each fable. Select any fable's question mark to go to that fable's question page. To return to the fable, select the arrow at the bottom of the question page.





• How to Create Your Own Glossary and Question Pages tells you how to add and replace questions and glossary items.

• How to Print and Make Your Own Book tells you how to create your own paper book.



INTRODUCTION

"Tut, tut, child" said the Duchess.
"Everything's got a moral, if only you can find it."

—Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

A fable is a very short story that tells us how to behave or that teaches us a lesson. Usually, but not always, fables are stories about animals that talk like people. The lesson that a fable teaches us is called a moral. It's not hard to find the morals in the fables in this book. They are written in italics (slanted letters) at the bottom of the fables.

Aesop is believed to have been a Greek slave who made up these stories to make his life easier. Nobody is really sure if Aesop made up these fables. What is certain, however, is that the stories called Aesop's Fables are so

wonderful that they have been told over and over again for thousands of years.

Many common sayings come from Aesop's Fables:

"Don't count your chickens before they hatch," and
"Honesty is the best policy," and
"Look before you leap"

are familiar examples.

Whether a Greek slave named Aesop made up these stories or whether many people living at different times made up the stories is not important. What's important is that the stories have survived and are worth re-telling. Adobe Systems is proud to present them in the newest form of story-telling: the Acrobat electronic book.

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ÆSOP'S FABLES

THE WOLF AND THE LAMB

Once upon a time a Wolf was lapping at a spring on a hillside when, looking up, what should he see but a Lamb just beginning to drink a little lower down. "There's my supper," thought he, "if only I can find some excuse to seize it." Then he called out to the Lamb, "How dare you muddle the water from which I am drinking." "Nay, master, nay," said Lambikin; "if the water be muddy up there, I cannot be the cause of it, for it runs down from you to me." "Well, then," said the Wolf, "why did you call me bad names this time last year?" "That cannot be," said the Lamb; "I am only six months old." "I don't care," snarled the Wolf, "if it was not you it was your father"; and with that he rushed upon the poor little Lamb.

Any excuse will serve a tyrant.



THE DOG AND THE SHADOW

It happened that a Dog had got a piece of meat and was carrying it home in his mouth to eat it in peace. Now on his way home he had to cross a plank lying across a running brook. As he crossed, he looked down and saw his own shadow reflected in the water beneath. Thinking it was another dog with another piece of meat, he made up his mind to have that also. So he made a snap at the shadow in the water, but as he opened his mouth the piece of meat fell out, dropped into the water, and was never seen again.

Beware lest you lose the substance
by grasping at the shadow.



THE LION'S SHARE

The Lion once went hunting with the Fox, the Jackal, and the Wolf. They hunted and they hunted till at last they surprised a Stag, and soon took its life. Then came the question how the spoil should be divided. "Quarter me this Stag," roared the Lion; so the other animals skinned it and cut it into four parts. Then the Lion took his stand in front of the carcass and pronounced judgment: "The first quarter is for me in my capacity as King of Beasts; the second is mine as arbiter; another share comes to me for my part in the chase; and as for the fourth quarter, well, as for that, I should like to see which of you will dare to

continued . . .

lay a paw upon it." "Humph," grumbled the Fox as he walked away with his tail between his legs; but he spoke in a low growl:

You may share the labors of the great,
but you will not share the rewards.



THE WOLF AND THE CRANE

A Wolf had been gorging on an animal he had killed, when suddenly a small bone in the meat stuck in his throat and he could not swallow it. He soon felt terrible pain in his throat, and ran up and down groaning and groaning and seeking for something to relieve the pain. He tried to induce every one he met to remove the bone. "I would give anything," said he, "if you would take it out." At last the Crane agreed to try, and told the Wolf to lie on his side and open his jaws as wide as he could. Then the Crane put its long neck down the Wolf's throat, and with its beak loosened the bone, till at last it got it out. "Will you kindly give me the reward you promised?" said the Crane. The Wolf grinned and showed his teeth and

continued . . .

said: “Be content. You have put your head inside a Wolf’s mouth and taken it out again in safety; that ought to be reward enough for you.”

Gratitude and greed go not together



THE MAN AND THE SERPENT

A Countryman's son by accident trod upon a Serpent's tail, which turned and bit him so that he died. The father in a rage got his axe, and pursuing the Serpent, cut off part of its tail. So the Serpent in revenge began stinging several of the Farmer's cattle and caused him severe loss. Well, the Farmer thought it best to make it up with the Serpent, and brought food and honey to the mouth of its lair, and said to it: "Let's forget and forgive. Perhaps you were right to punish my son, and take vengeance on my cattle, but surely I was right in trying to revenge him. Now that we are both satisfied why can't we be friends again?" "No, no," said the Serpent, "take away your gifts. You can never forget the death of your son, nor I the loss of my tail."

Injuries may be forgiven, but not forgotten.



The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

Now you must know that a Town Mouse once upon a time went on a visit to his cousin in the country. He was rough and ready, this cousin, but he loved his town friend and made him heartily welcome. Beans and bacon, cheese and bread, were all he had to offer, but he offered them freely. The Town Mouse rather turned up his long nose at this country fare, and said: "I cannot understand, Cousin, how you can put up with such poor food as this, but of course you cannot expect anything better in the country. Come home with me and I'll show you how to live. When you have been in town a week you will wonder how you could ever have stood a country life." No sooner said than done: the two mice set off for the town and arrived at the

continued . . .

Town Mouse's residence late at night. "You will want some refreshment after our long journey," said the polite Town Mouse, and took his friend into the grand dining room. There they found the remains of a fine feast, and soon the two mice were eating up jellies and cakes and all that was nice. Suddenly they heard growling and barking. "What is that?" asked the Country Mouse. "It is only the dogs of the house," answered the other. "Only!" said the Country Mouse. "I do not like that music at my dinner." Just at that moment the door flew open, and in came two huge dogs, and the two mice had to scamper down and run off. "Good-bye, Cousin," said the Country Mouse. "What! Going so soon?" asked the other. "Yes," he replied. "Better beans and bacon in peace than cakes and ale in fear."

Better beans and bacon in peace
than cakes and ale in fear.



THE FOX AND THE CROW

A Fox once saw a Crow fly off with a piece of cheese in its beak and settle on a branch of a tree. “That’s for me,” said the Fox, and he walked up to the foot of the tree. “Good day, Mistress Crow,” he cried. “How well you are looking today: how glossy your feathers; how bright your eyes. I feel sure your voice must surpass that of other birds, just as your figure does. Let me hear but one song from you that I may greet you as the Queen of Birds.” The Crow lifted up her head and began to caw her best, but the moment she opened her mouth the piece of cheese fell to the ground, only to be snapped up by the Fox. “That will do,” said he. “That was all I wanted. In exchange for your cheese I will give you a piece of advice for the future:

Do not trust flatterers.

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THE SICK LION

A Lion had come to the end of his days and lay sick unto death at the mouth of his cave, gasping for breath. The animals, his subjects, came round him and drew nearer as he grew more and more helpless. When they saw him on the point of death they thought to themselves: "Now is the time to pay off old grudges." So the Boar came up and drove at him with his tusks. Then a Bull gored him with his horns. Still the Lion lay helpless before them, so the Ass, feeling quite safe from danger, came up, and turning his tail to the Lion kicked up his heels into the Lion. "This is a double death," growled the Lion.

Only cowards insult dying majesty.



THE ASS AND THE LAPDOG

A Farmer one day came to the stables to see to his beasts of burden; among them was his favorite Ass. Along with the Farmer came his Lapdog, who danced about and licked his hand and frisked about as happy as could be. The Farmer felt in his pocket, gave the Lapdog some dainty food, and sat down while he gave his orders to his sons. The Lapdog jumped into his master's lap and lay there blinking while the Farmer stroked his ears. The Ass, seeing this, broke loose from his halter and commenced prancing about in imitation of the Lapdog. The Farmer could not hold his sides with laughter, so the Ass went up to him, and putting his feet upon the Farmer's shoulder

continued . . .

attempted to climb into his lap. The Farmer's sons rushed up with sticks and pitchforks and soon taught the Ass that clumsy jesting is no joke.

Clumsy jesting is no joke.



THE LION AND THE MOUSE

Once, when a Lion was asleep, a little Mouse began running up and down upon him. This soon wakened the Lion, who placed his huge paw upon him, and opened his big jaws to swallow him. “Pardon, O King,” cried the little Mouse, “forgive me this time, I shall never forget it! I may be able to return the favor one of these day?” The Lion was so tickled at the idea of the Mouse being able to help him that he lifted up his paw and let him go. Some time after, the Lion was caught in a trap, and the hunters, who desired to carry him alive to the King, tied him to a tree while they went in search of a wagon to carry him on. Just then the little Mouse happened to pass by, and seeing the

continued . . .

sad plight of the Lion, went up to him and soon gnawed away the ropes that bound the King of the Beasts. “Was I not right?” said the little Mouse.

Little friends may prove great friends.



THE SWALLOW AND THE OTHER BIRDS

It happened that a Countryman was sowing some hemp seeds in a field where a Swallow and some other birds were hopping about picking up their food. “Beware of that man,” observed the Swallow. “Why, what is he doing?” asked the others. “That is hemp seed he is sowing; be careful to pick up every one of the seeds, or else you will repent it.” The birds paid no heed to the Swallow’s words, and by and by the hemp grew up and was made into cord, and of the cords nets were made, and many a bird that had ignored the Swallow’s advice was caught in nets made out of that very hemp. “What did I tell you?” said the Swallow.

Destroy the seed of evil,
or it will grow up to be your ruin.



The Frogs Desiring a King

The Frogs were living as happy as could be in a marshy swamp that just suited them. They went splashing about, caring for nobody and nobody troubled them. But some of the frogs thought that this was not right, that they should have a king and a proper constitution, so they sent up a petition to Zeus to give them what they wanted. "Mighty Zeus," they cried, "send unto us a king that will rule over us and keep us in order." Zeus laughed at their croaking and threw down into the swamp a huge Log. The Frogs were frightened out of their lives by the commotion made in their midst, and all rushed to the bank to look at the horrible monster. But after a time, seeing that it did not move, one or two of the boldest of them ventured out towards the Log, and even dared to touch it. Still it did not

continued . . .

move. Then the greatest hero of the Frogs jumped upon the Log and commenced dancing up and down upon it; thereupon all the Frogs came and did the same, and for some time the Frogs went about their business every day without taking the slightest notice of their new King Log lying in their midst. But this did not suit them, so they sent another petition to Zeus, and said to him, “We want a real king; one that will really rule over us.” Now this made Zeus angry, so he sent them a big Stork that soon set to work gobbling them all up. Then the Frogs repented, but it was too late.

Better no rule than cruel rule.



THE MOUNTAINS IN LABOR

One day the Countryfolk noticed that the Mountains were in labor; smoke came out of their summits, the earth was quaking at their feet, trees were crashing, and huge rocks were tumbling. They felt sure that something horrible was going to happen. They all gathered together in one place to see what terrible thing this could be. They waited and they waited, but nothing came. At last there was a still more violent earthquake and a huge gap appeared in the side of the Mountains. They all fell down upon their knees and waited. At long last, a teeny, tiny mouse poked its little head and bristles out of the gap and came running down towards them, and ever after they used to say: "Much outcry, little outcome."

Much outcry, little outcome.



THE HARES AND THE FROGS

The Hares were so persecuted by the other beasts they did not know where to go. As soon as they saw a single animal approach them, off they used to run. One day they saw a troop of wild Horses stampeding about, and in quite a panic all the Hares scuttled off to a nearby lake, determined to drown themselves rather than live in such a continual state of fear. But just as they got near the bank of the lake, a troop of Frogs, frightened in their turn by the approach of the Hares, scuttled off, and jumped into the water. “Truly,” said one of the Hares, “things are not so bad as they seem: there is always someone worse off than yourself.”

There is always someone worse off than yourself.



THE WOLF AND THE KID

A Kid was perched on the top of a house, and looking down saw a Wolf passing under him. Immediately he began to revile and attack his enemy. “Murderer and thief,” he cried, “why are you here near honest folks’ houses? How dare you make an appearance where your vile deeds are known!” “Curse away, my young friend,” said the Wolf. “It is easy to be brave from a safe distance.”

It is easy to be brave from a safe distance.



THE WOODMAN AND THE SERPENT

One wintry day a Woodman was tramping home from his work when he saw something black lying on the snow. When he came closer he saw it was a Serpent, apparently dead. But he took it up and put it in his jacket to warm while he hurried home. As soon as he got indoors he put the Serpent down on the hearth before the fire. The children watched it and saw it slowly come to life again. Then one of them stooped down to stroke it, but the Serpent raised its head and put out its fangs and was about to sting the child to death. So the Woodman seized his axe and with one stroke cut the Serpent in two. "Ah," said he, "no gratitude from the wicked."

No gratitude from the wicked.



THE BALD MAN AND THE FLY

There once was a Bald Man who sat down after work on a hot summer's day. A Fly came up and kept buzzing about his bald pate, stinging him from time to time. The Man aimed a blow at his little enemy, but his palm came on his head instead; and again the Fly tormented him. But this time the Man was wiser, and said: "You will only injure yourself if you take notice of despicable enemies."

You will only injure yourself if you take notice of despicable enemies.



THE FOX AND THE STORK

At one time the Fox and the Stork were on visiting terms and seemed very good friends. So the Fox invited the Stork to dinner, and for a joke put nothing before her but some soup in a very shallow dish. This the Fox could easily lap up, but the Stork could only wet the end of her long bill in it, and left the meal as hungry as when she began. "I am sorry," said the Fox, "the soup is not to your liking." "Pray do not apologize," said the Stork. "I hope you will return this visit, and come and dine with me soon." So a day was appointed when the Fox should visit the Stork; but when they were seated at the table their dinner was contained in a very long-necked jar with a narrow mouth, in which the Fox could not insert his snout. All he could

continued . . .

manage to do was to lick the outside of the jar. “I will not apologize for the dinner,” said the Stork “because one bad turn deserves another.”

One bad turn deserves another.



THE FOX AND THE MASK

A Fox had by some means got into the storeroom of a theatre. Suddenly he observed a face glaring down on him and became very frightened; but looking more closely he found it was only a Mask, such as the type actors use to put over their face. "Ah," said the Fox, "you look very fine. It's a pity you haven't got any brains."

Outside show is a poor substitute for inner worth.



THE JAY AND THE PEACOCK

A Jay ventured into a yard where Peacocks used to walk and found there a number of feathers which had fallen from the Peacocks when they were moulting. He tied them to his tail and strutted down towards the Peacocks. As the Jay approached, the Peacocks discovered the disguise and pecked at the Jay and plucked away his borrowed plumes. So when the Jay went back to the other Jays, who had watched his behavior from a distance, they were equally annoyed with him and told him: “It is not only fine feathers that make fine birds.”

It is not only fine feathers that make fine birds.



THE FROG AND THE OX

“Oh Father,” said a little Frog to the big one sitting by the side of a pool, “I have seen such a terrible monster! It was as big as a mountain, with horns on its head, and a long tail, and it had hoofs divided in two.” “Tush, child, tush,” said the old Frog, “that was only Farmer White’s Ox. It isn’t so big either; he may be a little bit taller than I, but I could easily make myself quite as broad; just you see.” So he blew himself out, and blew himself out, and blew himself out. “Was he as big as that?” asked he. “Oh, much bigger than that,” said the young Frog. Again the old one blew himself out, and asked the young one if the Ox was as big as that. “Bigger, father, bigger,” was the reply. So the Frog took a deep breath, and blew and blew and blew,

continued . . .

and swelled and swelled and swelled. And then he said: "I'm sure the Ox is not as big as..." but at that very moment he burst.

Self-conceit may lead to self-destruction.



Androcles and the Lion

A slave named Androcles once escaped from his master and fled to the forest. As he was wandering about there he came upon a Lion lying down moaning and groaning. At first he turned to flee, but finding that the Lion did not pursue him, he turned back and went up to him. As he came near, the Lion put out his paw, which was all swollen and bleeding, and Androcles found that a huge thorn had got into it and was causing all the pain. He pulled out the thorn and bound up the paw of the Lion, who was soon able to rise and lick the hand of Androcles like a dog. Then the Lion took Androcles to his cave, and every day used to bring him meat from which to live. But shortly afterwards both Androcles and the Lion were captured, and the slave was sentenced to be thrown to the Lion,

continued . . .

after the latter had been kept without food for several days. The Emperor and all his Court came to see the spectacle, and Androcles was led out into the middle of the arena. Soon the Lion was let loose from his den, and rushed bounding and roaring towards his victim. But as soon as he came near to Androcles he recognized his friend, and fawned upon him, and licked his hands like a friendly dog. The Emperor, surprised at this, summoned Androcles to him, who told him the whole story. Whereupon the slave was pardoned and freed, and the Lion let loose to his native forest.

Gratitude is the sign of noble souls.



The Bat, the Birds, and the Beasts

A great battle was about to happen between the Birds and the Beasts. When the two armies were collected together the Bat hesitated about which to join. The Birds that passed his perch said: “Come with us”; but he said: “I am a Beast.” Later on, some Beasts who were passing underneath him looked up and said: “Come with us”; but he said: “I am a Bird.” Luckily at the last moment peace was made, and no battle took place, so the Bat came to the Birds and wished to join in the rejoicings, but they all turned against him, and he had to fly away. He then went to the Beasts, but soon had to retreat, or else they would

continued . . .

have torn him to pieces. “Ah,” said the Bat, “I see now. “‘He that is neither one thing nor the other has no friends.’”

He that is neither one thing nor the other has no friends.



THE HART AND THE HUNTER

The Hart was once drinking from a pool and admiring the noble figure he made there. “Ah,” said he, “where can you see such noble horns as these, with such antlers! But I wish I had legs more worthy to bear such a noble crown. It’s a pity these legs are so slim and slight.” At that moment a Hunter approached and sent an arrow whistling after him. Away bounded the Hart, and soon, by the aid of his nimble legs, was nearly out of sight of the Hunter. But not noticing where he was going, the Hart passed under some trees with branches growing low in which his antlers got caught so that the Hunter had time to catch up. “Alas! alas!” cried the entangled Hart. “We often despise what is most useful to us.”

We often despise what is most useful to us.



THE SERPENT AND THE FILE

A Serpent in the course of its wanderings came into an armorer's shop. As he glided over the floor he felt his skin pricked by a file lying there. In a rage he turned upon it and tried to dart his fangs into it, but he could do no harm to the heavy iron and had soon to give over his wrath.

It is useless attacking the insensible.



THE MAN AND THE WOOD

A Man came into a Wood one day with an axe in his hand and begged all the Trees to give him a small branch, which he wanted for a particular purpose. The Trees were good-natured and gave him one of their branches. What did the Man do but put it into an axe head, and soon set to work cutting down tree after tree. Then the Trees saw how foolish they had been in giving their enemy the means of destroying themselves.

Beware what you give to future enemies.



THE DOG AND THE WOLF

A gaunt Wolf was almost dead with hunger when he happened to meet a House-dog who was passing by. "Ah, Cousin," said the Dog. "I knew your irregular life will soon be the ruin of you. Why do you not work steadily as do I, and get your food regularly given to you?" "I would have no objection," said the Wolf, "if I could only get a chance." "I will easily arrange that for you," said the Dog. "Come with me to my master and you shall share my work." So the Wolf and the Dog went towards the town together. On the way there the Wolf noticed that the hair on a certain part of the Dog's neck was very much worn away, so he asked him how that had come about. "Oh, it is nothing," said the Dog. "That is only the place where

continued . . .

the collar is put on at night to keep me chained up; it chafes a bit, but one soon gets used to it.” “Is that all?” said the Wolf. “Then good- bye to you, Master Dog.”

Better starve free than be a fat slave.



The Belly and the Members

One fine day it occurred to the Members of the Body that they were doing all the work and the Belly was having all the food. So they held a meeting, and after a long discussion, decided to strike work till the Belly consented to take its proper share of the work. So for a day or two, the Hands refused to take the food, the Mouth refused to receive it, and the Teeth had no work to do. But after a day or two the Members began to find that they themselves were not in a very active condition: the Hands could hardly move, and the Mouth was all parched and dry, while the Legs were unable to support the rest. So thus they found that

continued . . .

even the Belly in its dull quiet way was doing necessary work for the Body, and that all must work together or the Body will go to pieces.

All must work together.



THE HART IN THE OX-STALL

A Hart hotly pursued by a Hunter's hounds fled for refuge into an ox-stall, and buried itself in a large bale of hay, leaving nothing to be seen but the tips of its horns. Soon after the Hunter came and asked if any one had seen the Hart. The stable boys, who had been resting after their dinner, looked round, but could see nothing, and the Hunters went away. Shortly afterwards the Master came in, and looking round, saw that something unusual had taken place. He pointed to the hay and said: "What are those two curious things sticking out of the hay?"
And when the stable boys went to look they discovered the Hart.

Nothing escapes the master's eye.



THE FOX AND THE GRAPES

One hot summer's day a Fox was strolling through an orchard till he came to a bunch of Grapes just ripening on a vine which had been trained over a lofty branch. "Just the thing to quench my thirst," said the Fox. Drawing back a few paces, he took a run and a jump, but just missed the bunch. Turning round again with a One, Two, Three, he jumped up, but with no greater success. Again and again he tried after the tempting morsel, but at last had to give it up. As the Fox walked away with his nose in the air, he said: "I am sure they are sour."

It is easy to despise what
you cannot get.



THE HORSE, HUNTER, AND STAG

A quarrel had arisen between the Horse and the Stag, so the Horse came to a Hunter to ask his help to take revenge on the Stag. The Hunter agreed, but said: "If you desire to conquer the Stag, you must permit me to guide you with these reins, and allow this saddle to be placed upon your back so that I may keep steady upon you as we follow after the enemy." The Horse agreed to the conditions, and the Hunter soon saddled and bridled him. With the aid of the Hunter the Horse soon overcame the Stag, and said to the Hunter: "Now, get off and remove those things from my

continued . . .

mouth and back." "Not so fast, friend," said the Hunter. "Now that I've got you under bit and spur I prefer to keep you that way."

If you allow people to use you
for your own purposes, they will use
you for theirs.



THE PEACOCK AND HERA

A Peacock once placed a petition before Hera desiring to have the voice of a nightingale in addition to his other attractions; but Hera refused his request. When he persisted and pointed out that he was her favorite bird, she said: “Be content with your lot. One cannot be first in everything.”

One cannot be first in everything.



THE FOX AND THE LION

When the Fox first saw the Lion he was terribly frightened and ran away and hid himself in the woods. Next time however, when the Fox came near the King of Beasts, he stopped at a safe distance and watched him pass by. The third time they came near one another the Fox went straight up to the Lion and passed the time of day with him, asking the Lion how his family was faring and when he might have the pleasure of seeing him again. Then, turning his tail, the Fox parted from the Lion without much ceremony.

Familiarity breeds contempt.



THE LION AND THE STATUE

A Man and a Lion were discussing the relative strength of men and lions in general. The Man contended that he and his fellows were stronger than lions by reason of their greater intelligence. “Come now with me,” he cried, “and I will soon prove that I am right.” So he took him into the public gardens and showed him a statue of Hercules overcoming the Lion and tearing his mouth in two. “That is all very well,” said the Lion, “but proves nothing, for it was a man who made the statue.”

We can easily represent things
as we wish them to be.



The Ant and the Grasshopper

One summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest. "Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and working in that way?" "I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant, "and recommend you to do the same." "Why bother about winter?" asked the Grasshopper. "We've got plenty of food at present." But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil. When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger

continued . . .

while it saw the ants distributing corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew:

It is best to prepare for the days of necessity.



THE TREE AND THE REED

"Well, little one," said a Tree to a Reed that was growing at its foot, "why do you not plant your feet deeply in the ground, and raise your head boldly in the air as do I?" "I am contented with my lot," said the Reed. "I may not be so grand, but I think I am safer." "Safe!" sneered the Tree. "Who shall pluck me up by the roots or bow my head to the ground?" But it soon had to repent of its boasting, for a hurricane arose which tore it up from its roots and cast it a useless log on the ground, while the little Reed, bending to the force of the wind, soon stood upright again when the storm had passed over.

Obscurity often brings safety.



THE FOX AND THE CAT

A Fox was boasting to a Cat of its clever devices for escaping its enemies. "I have a whole bag of tricks," the Fox said, "which contains a hundred ways of escaping my enemies." "I have only one," said the Cat, "but I can generally manage with that." At that very moment they heard the cry of a pack of hounds coming towards them, and the Cat immediately scampered up a tree and hid herself in the boughs. "This is my plan," said the Cat. "What are you going to do?" The Fox thought first of one way, then of another, and while he was debating the hounds came nearer and nearer, and at last the Fox in his confusion was caught up by the hounds and soon killed by the

continued . . .

huntsmen. The Cat, who had been looking on, said: “Better one safe way than a hundred on which you cannot reckon.”

Better one safe way than a hundred
on which you cannot reckon.



THE WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

A Wolf found great difficulty in getting at the sheep owing to the vigilance of the shepherd and his dogs. But one day it found the skin of a sheep that had been flayed and thrown aside, so it put it on over its own pelt and strolled down among the sheep. The Lamb that belonged to the sheep, whose skin the Wolf was wearing, began to follow the Wolf in the Sheep's clothing; so, leading the Lamb a little apart, he soon made a meal of her, and for some time after he succeeded in deceiving the sheep, and enjoying hearty meals.

Appearances are deceptive.



THE DOG IN THE MANGER

A Dog looking out for its afternoon nap jumped into the Manger of an Ox and lay there cozily upon the straw. But soon the Ox, returning from its afternoon work, came up to the Manger and wanted to eat some of the straw. The Dog in a rage, being awakened from its slumber, stood up and barked at the Ox, and whenever it came near attempted to bite it. At last the Ox had to give up the hope of getting at the straw and went away muttering: "Ah, people often grudge others what they cannot enjoy themselves."

People often grudge others
what they cannot enjoy themselves.



THE MAN AND THE WOODEN GOD

In the old days men used to worship stones and idols, and prayed to them to give them luck. It happened that a Man had often prayed to a wooden idol he had received from his father, but his luck never seemed to change. He prayed and he prayed, but still he remained as unlucky as ever. One day in the greatest rage he went to the Wooden God and with one blow swept it down from its pedestal. The idol broke in two, and what did he see? An immense number of coins flying all over the place.

[Create your own moral.]



THE FISHER

A Fisher once took his bagpipes to the bank of a river and played upon them with the hope of making the fish rise, but not one fish put its nose out of the water. So he cast his net into the river and soon drew it forth filled with fish. Then he took his bagpipes again, and, as he played, the caught fish leapt up in the net. “Ah, you dance now when I play,” said he. “Yes,” said an old Fish: “When you are in a person’s power you must do as they bid.”

When you are in a person’s power
you must do as they bid.



THE SHEPHERD'S BOY

There was once a young Shepherd Boy who tended his sheep at the foot of a mountain near a dark forest. It was rather lonely for him all day, so he thought upon a plan by which he could get a little company and some excitement. He rushed down towards the village calling out "Wolf, Wolf," and the villagers came out to meet him, and some of them stopped with him for a considerable time. This pleased the boy so much that a few days afterwards he tried the same trick, and again the villagers came to his help. But shortly after this a Wolf actually did come out from the forest, and began to worry the sheep, and the boy of course cried out "Wolf, Wolf," still louder than before. But this time the villagers, who had been fooled twice before, thought the boy was again deceiving them,

continued . . .

and nobody stirred to come to his help. So the Wolf made a good meal off the boy's flock, and when the boy complained, the wise man of the village said: "A liar will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth."

A liar will not be believed,
even when he speaks the truth.



THE YOUNG THIEF AND HIS MOTHER

A young Man had been caught in a daring act of theft and had been condemned to be executed for it. He expressed his desire to see his Mother and to speak with her before he was led to execution, and of course this was granted. When his Mother came to him he said: "I want to whisper to you," and when she brought her ear near him, he nearly bit it off. All the bystanders were horrified and asked him what he could mean by such brutal and inhuman conduct. "It is to punish her," he said. "When I was young I began with stealing little things, and brought them home to Mother. Instead of rebuking and punishing me, she laughed and said: 'It will not be noticed.' It is

continued . . .

because of her that I am here today." "He is right, woman," said the Priest. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart therefrom."

Teach a child well.



THE MAN AND HIS TWO WIVES

In the old days, when men were allowed to have many wives, a middle-aged Man had one wife that was old and one that was young; each loved him very much, and desired to see him like herself. Now the Man's hair was turning grey, which the young Wife did not like, as it made him look too old for her husband. So every night she used to comb his hair and pick out the white ones. But the elder Wife saw her husband growing grey with great pleasure, for she did not like to be mistaken for his

continued . . .

mother. So every morning she used to arrange his hair and pick out as many of the black ones as she could. The consequence was the Man soon found himself entirely bald.

Yield to all and you will soon
have nothing to yield.



THE NURSE AND THE WOLF

"Be quiet now," said an old Nurse to a child sitting on her lap. "If you make that noise again I will throw you to the Wolf." Now it chanced that a Wolf was passing close under the window as this was said. So he crouched down by the side of the house and waited. "I am in good luck today," thought he. "It is sure to cry soon, and a daintier morsel I haven't had for many a long day." So he waited, and he waited, and he waited, till at last the child began to cry, and the Wolf came forward before the window and looked up to the Nurse, wagging his tail. But all the Nurse did was to shut down the window and call for help, and

continued . . .

the dogs of the house came rushing out. “Ah,” said the Wolf as he galloped away “Enemies’ promises were made to be broken.”

Enemies’ promises were made to be broken.



THE TORTOISE AND THE BIRDS

A Tortoise desired to change its place of residence, so he asked an Eagle to carry him to his new home, promising her a rich reward for her trouble. The Eagle agreed, and seizing the Tortoise by the shell with her talons, soared aloft. On their way they met a Crow, who said to the Eagle: “Tortoise is good eating.” “The shell is too hard,” said the Eagle in reply. “Those rocks would crack the shell,” was the Crow’s answer; and the Eagle, taking the hint, let fall the Tortoise on a sharp rock, and the two birds made a hearty meal of the Tortoise.

Never soar aloft on an enemy’s wings.



THE TWO CRABS

One fine day two Crabs came out from their home to take a stroll on the sand. “Child,” said the mother, “you are walking ungracefully. You should accustom yourself to walking straight forward without twisting from side to side.” “Pray, mother,” said the young one, “do but set the example yourself, and I will follow you.”

Example is the best precept.



THE ASS IN THE LION'S SKIN

An Ass once found a Lion's skin which the hunters had left out in the sun to dry. He put it on and went towards his native village. All fled at his approach, both men and animals, and he was proud that day. In his delight he lifted up his voice and brayed, but then everyone knew him, and his owner came up and gave him a sound cudgeling for the fright he had caused. And shortly afterwards a Fox came up to him and said: "Ah, I knew you by your voice."

Fine clothes may disguise,
but silly words will disclose a fool.



The Two Fellows and the Bear

Two Fellows were traveling together through a wood, when a Bear rushed out upon them. One of the travelers happened to be in front, and he seized hold of the branch of a tree, and hid himself among the leaves. The other threw himself flat down upon the ground, with his face in the dust. The Bear, coming up to him, put his muzzle close to his ear, and sniffed and sniffed. But at last with a growl he shook his head and slouched off, for bears will not touch dead meat. Then the fellow in the tree came down to his comrade, and, laughing, said "What was it

continued . . .

that Master Bear whispered to you?" "He told me," said the other, "never trust a friend who deserts you at a pinch."

Never trust a friend
who deserts you at a pinch.



THE TWO POTS

Two Pots had been left on the bank of a river, one of brass, and one of earthenware. When the tide rose they both floated off down the stream. Now the earthenware pot tried its best to keep aloof from the brass one, which cried out: “Fear nothing, friend, I will not strike you.” “But I may come in contact with you,” said the earthenware pot. “Whether I hit you, or you hit me, I shall suffer for it.”

The strong and the weak
cannot keep company.



THE FOUR OXEN AND THE LION

A Lion used to prowl about a field in which four Oxen used to dwell. Many a time he tried to attack them, but whenever he came near they turned their tails to one another so that whichever way he approached them he was met by the horns of one of them. At last, however, they began quarreling among themselves, and each went off to pasture alone in a separate corner of the field. Then the Lion attacked them one by one and soon made an end of all four.

United we stand, divided we fall.



The Fisher and the Little Fish

It happened that a Fisher, after fishing all day, caught only a little Fish. "Pray, let me go, master," said the Fish. "I am much too small for your eating just now. If you put me back into the river I shall soon grow, then you can make a fine meal of me." "Nay, nay, my little Fish," said the Fisher. "I have you now. I may not catch you hereafter."

A little thing in hand is worth more
than a great thing in prospect.



AVARICIOUS AND ENVIOUS

Two neighbors came before Zeus and prayed him to grant their hearts' desire. Now the one was full of avarice, and the other eaten up with envy. So to punish them both, Zeus granted that each might have whatever he wished for himself, but only on condition that the other had twice as much. The Avaricious neighbor prayed to have a room full of gold. No sooner said than done; but all his joy was turned to grief when he found that his envious neighbor had two rooms full of the precious metal. Then came the turn of the Envious neighbor who could not bear to think that his neighbor had any joy at all. So he prayed that his Avaricious neighbor might have one of his own eyes put out, by which means he himself became totally blind.



Vices are their own punishment.

THE CROW AND THE PITCHER

A Crow, half-dead with thirst, came upon a Pitcher which had once been full of water, but when the Crow put its beak into the mouth of the Pitcher he found that only very little water was left and that he could not reach far enough down to get at it. He tried, and he tried, but at last had to give up in despair. Then a thought came to him, and he took a pebble and dropped it into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped it into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Pitcher. At last, at last, he

continued . . .

saw the water mount up near him, and after casting in a few more pebbles he was able to quench his thirst and save his life.

Little by little does the trick.



THE MAN AND THE SATYR

A Man had lost his way in a wood one bitter winter's night. As he was roaming about, a Satyr came up to him, and finding that he had lost his way, promised to give him a lodging for the night and guide him out of the forest in the morning. As he went along to the Satyr's cell, the Man raised both his hands to his mouth and kept on blowing at them. "What do you do that for?" said the Satyr. "My hands are numb with the cold," said the Man, "and my breath warms them." After this they arrived at the Satyr's home, and soon the Satyr put a smoking dish of porridge before him. But when the Man raised his spoon to his mouth he began blowing upon it. "And what do you do that for?" said the Satyr. "The porridge is too

continued . . .

hot, and my breath will cool it.” “Out you go,” said the Satyr. “I will have nothing to do with a man who can blow hot and cold with the same breath.”

[Create your own moral.]



THE GOOSE WITH THE GOLDEN EGGS

One day a countryman going to the nest of his Goose found there an egg all yellow and glittering. When he picked it up it was as heavy as lead and he was going to throw it away because he thought a trick had been played upon him. But he took it home on second thought, and soon found to his delight that it was an egg of pure gold. Every morning the same thing occurred, and he soon became rich by selling his eggs. As he grew rich he grew greedy; and thinking to get at once all the gold the Goose could give, he killed it and opened it, only to find nothing.

Greed often overreaches itself.



The Laborer and the Nightingale

A Laborer lay listening to a Nightingale's song throughout the summer night. So pleased was he with it that the next night he set a trap for it and captured it. "Now that I have caught thee," he cried, "thou shalt always sing to me." "We Nightingales never sing in a cage," said the bird. "Then I'll eat thee," said the Laborer. "I have always heard that a nightingale on toast is a dainty morsel." "Nay, kill me not," said the Nightingale, "but let me free, and I'll tell thee three things far better worth than my poor body." The Laborer let him loose, and the Nightingale flew up to a branch of a tree and said: "Never believe a captive's

continued . . .

promise; that's one thing. Then again: Keep what you have. And third piece of advice is: Sorrow not over what is lost forever." Then the songbird flew away.

Sorrow not over what is lost forever.



THE FOX, THE ROOSTER, AND THE DOG

One moonlit night a Fox was prowling about a farmer's hen-coop and saw a Rooster roosting high up beyond his reach. "Good news, good news!" he cried. "Why, what is it?" asked the Rooster. "King Lion has declared a universal truce. No beast may hurt another henceforth, but all shall dwell together in brotherly friendship." "Why, that is good news," said the Rooster, "and I see someone coming with whom we can share the good tidings." And so saying he craned his neck forward and pretended to look far away. "What is it you see?" said the Fox. "My master's Dog is coming towards us," the Rooster said. The Fox began to turn away as soon as he heard about the dog.

continued . . .

“Will you not stop and congratulate the Dog on the reign of universal peace?” “I would gladly do so,” said the Fox, “but I fear he may not have heard of King Lion’s decree.”

Cunning often outwits itself.



THE WIND AND THE SUN

The Wind and the Sun were disputing which was the stronger. Suddenly they saw a traveler coming down the road, and the Sun said: “I see a way to decide our dispute. Whichever of us can cause that traveler to take off his cloak shall be regarded as the stronger. You begin.” So the Sun retired behind a cloud, and the Wind began to blow as hard as it could upon the traveler. But the harder he blew the more closely did the traveler wrap his cloak round him, till at last the Wind had to give up in despair. Then the Sun came out and shone in all his glory upon the traveler, who soon found it too hot to walk with his cloak on.

Kindness effects more than severity.



HERCULES AND THE WAGONEER

A Wagoneer was once driving a heavy load along a very muddy way. At last he came to a part of the road where the wheels sank half-way into the mire, and the more the horses pulled, the deeper sank the wheels. So the Wagoneer threw down his whip, and knelt down and prayed to Hercules the Strong. “O Hercules, help me in this my hour of distress,” quoth he. But Hercules appeared to him, and said: “Tut, man, don’t sprawl there. Get up and put your shoulder to the wheel.”

Fate helps them that help themselves.



THE MAN, THE BOY, AND THE DONKEY

A Man and his son were once going with their Donkey to market. As they were walking, a countryman passed them and said: "You fools, what is a Donkey for but to ride upon?" So the Man put the Boy on the Donkey and they went on their way. But soon they passed a group of men, one of whom said: "See that lazy youngster, he lets his father walk while he rides." So the Man ordered his Boy to get off, and got on himself. But they hadn't gone far when they passed two women, one of whom said to the other: "Shame on that lazy lout to let his poor little son trudge along." Well, the Man didn't know what to do, but at last he took his Boy up before him on the Donkey. By this time they had come to the town, and the passersby began

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to jeer and point at them. The Man stopped and asked what they were scoffing at. The men said: “Aren’t you ashamed of yourself for overloading that poor donkey of yours?” The Man and Boy got off and tried to think what to do. They thought and they thought, till at last they cut down a pole, tied the donkey’s feet to it, and raised the pole and the donkey to their shoulders. They went along amid the laughter of all who met them till they came to Market Bridge, when the Donkey, getting one of his feet loose, kicked out and broke free, then ran away wildly never to be seen again by the Man or his Boy. “That will teach you,” said an old man who had followed them: “Please all, and you will please none.”

Please all, and you will please none.



THE MISER AND HIS GOLD

Once upon a time there was a Miser who used to hide his gold at the foot of a tree in his garden. Every week he used to go and dig it up and gloat over his gains. A robber, who had noticed this, went and dug up the gold and escaped with it. When the Miser next came to gloat over his treasures, he found nothing but the empty hole. He tore his hair, and raised such an outcry that all the neighbors came around him, and he told them how he used to come and visit his gold. “Did you ever take any of it out?” asked one of them. “Nay,” said he, “I only came to look at it.” “Then come again and look at the hole,” said a neighbor, “it will do you just as much good.”

Wealth unused might as well not exist.



THE FOX AND THE MOSQUITOES

After crossing a river, a Fox got its tail entangled in a bush and could not move. A number of Mosquitoes seeing its plight settled upon it and enjoyed a good meal undisturbed by its tail. A Hedgehog strolling by took pity upon the Fox and went up to it: “You are in a bad way, neighbor,” said the Hedgehog. “Shall I relieve you by driving off those Mosquitoes who are sucking your blood?” “Thank you, Master Hedgehog,” said the Fox, “but I would rather not.” “Why, how is that?” asked the Hedgehog. “Well, you see,” was the answer, “these Mosquitoes have had their fill; if you drive these away, others will come with fresh appetite and bleed me to death.”

[Create your own moral.]

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THE FOX WITHOUT A TAIL

It happened that a Fox caught its tail in a trap, and in struggling to release himself lost all of it but the stump. At first he was ashamed to show himself among his fellow foxes. But at last he determined to put a bolder face upon his misfortune, and summoned all the foxes to a general meeting to consider a proposal which he had to place before them. When they had assembled together the Fox proposed that they should all do away with their tails. He pointed out how inconvenient a tail was when they were pursued by their enemies, the dogs; how much it was in the way when they desired to sit down and hold a friendly conversation with one another. He failed to see any advantage in carrying about such a useless encumbrance.

continued . . .

“That is all very well,” said one of the older foxes; “but I do not think you would have asked us to dispense with our chief ornament if you had not lost yours.”

Do not trust interested advice.



THE ONE-EYED DOE

A Doe had had the misfortune to lose one of her eyes, and could not see any one approaching her on that side. So to avoid any danger she always used to feed on a high cliff near the sea, with her sound eye looking towards the land. By this means she could see whenever the hunters approached her on land, and often escaped. But the hunters found out that she was blind of one eye, and hiring a boat rowed under the cliff where she used to feed and shot her from the sea. “Ah,” cried she with her dying voice, “you cannot escape your fate.”

You cannot escape your fate.



BELLING THE CAT

Long ago, the mice had a general council to consider what measures they could take to outwit their common enemy, the Cat. Some said this, and some said that; but at last a young mouse got up and said he had a proposal to make, which he thought would meet the case. "You will all agree," said he, "that our chief danger consists in the sly and treacherous manner in which the enemy approaches us. Now, if we could receive some signal of her approach, we could easily escape from her. I venture, therefore, to propose that a small bell be procured and attached by a ribbon round the neck of the Cat. By this means we should always know when she was about, and could easily retire while she was in the neighborhood." This proposal met with general applause, until an old mouse got up and

continued . . .

said: “That is all very well, but who is to bell the Cat?” The mice looked at one another and nobody spoke. Then the old mouse said: “It is easy to propose impossible remedies.”

It is easy to propose impossible remedies.



THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

The Hare was once boasting of his speed before the other animals. “I have never yet been beaten,” said he, “when I put forth my full speed. I challenge any one here to race with me.” The Tortoise said quietly, “I accept your challenge.” “That is a good joke,” said the Hare, “I could dance round you all the way.” “Silence your boasting till you’ve beaten me,” answered the Tortoise. “Shall we race?” So a course was fixed and a start was made. The Hare darted almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped and, to show his contempt for the Tortoise, lay down to have a nap. The Tortoise plodded on and plodded on, and when

continued . . .

the Hare awoke from his nap, he saw the Tortoise just near the winning-post and could not run up in time to save the race. Then said the Tortoise: “Plodding wins the race.”

Plodding wins the race.



THE OLD MAN AND DEATH

An old laborer, bent double with age and toil, was gathering sticks in a forest. At last he grew so tired and hopeless that he threw down the bundle of sticks, and cried out: "I cannot bear this life any longer. Ah, I wish Death would only come and take me!" Just after he spoke, Death, a grisly skeleton, appeared and said to him: "What would you like of me, Mortal? I heard you call me." "Please, sir," replied the woodcutter, "would you kindly help me to lift this bundle of sticks on to my shoulder?"

We would often be sorry
if our wishes were gratified.



THE HARE WITH MANY FRIENDS

A Hare was very popular with the other beasts who all claimed to be her friends. But one day she heard the hounds approaching and hoped to escape them by the aid of her many Friends. So she went to the horse, and asked him to carry her away from the hounds on his back. But he declined, stating that he had important work to do for his master. “I’m sure,” he said, “that the bull would come to your assistance.” She then applied to the bull, and hoped that he would repel the hounds with his horns. The bull replied: “I am very sorry, but I have an appointment with a lady; but I feel sure that our friend the goat will do what you want.” The goat, however, feared that

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his back might do her some harm if he took her upon it. The ram, he felt sure, was the proper friend to apply to. So she went to the ram and told him the case. The ram replied: "Another time, my dear friend. I do not like to interfere on the present occasion, as hounds have been known to eat sheep as well as hares." The Hare then applied, as a last hope, to the calf, who regretted that he was unable to help her, as he did not like to take the responsibility upon himself, as so many older persons had declined the task. By this time the hounds were quite near, and the Hare took to her heels and luckily escaped.

She that has many friends, has no friends.

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THE LION IN LOVE

A Lion once fell in love with a beautiful maiden and proposed marriage to her parents. The old people did not know what to say. They did not like to give their daughter to the Lion, yet they did not wish to enrage the King of Beasts. At last the father said: "We feel highly honored by your Majesty's proposal, but you see our daughter is a young girl, and we fear that as the object of your affection you might possibly do her some injury. Might I venture to suggest that your Majesty should have your claws removed, and your teeth extracted, then we would gladly consider your proposal again." The Lion was so much in love that he had his claws trimmed and his big teeth taken

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out. But when he came again to the parents of the young girl they simply laughed in his face, for he was no longer fearsome.

Love can tame the wildest.



THE BUNDLE OF STICKS

An old man on the point of death summoned his sons around him to give them some parting advice. He ordered his servants to bring in a bundle of sticks, and said to his eldest son: “Break it.” The son strained and strained, but with all his efforts was unable to break the bundle. The other sons also tried, but none of them was successful. “Untie the sticks,” said the father, “and each of you take a stick.” When they had done so, he called out to them: “Now, break,” and each stick was easily broken. “You see my meaning,” said their father.

Union gives strength.



THE LION, THE FOX, AND THE BEASTS

The Lion once announced he was deathly sick and summoned the animals to come and hear his last Will and Testament. So the Goat came to the Lion's cave and listened for a long time. Then a Sheep went in, and then a Calf came up to receive the last wishes of the Lord of the Beasts. But soon the Lion seemed to recover, and came to the mouth of his cave, and saw the Fox, who had been waiting outside for some time. "Why do you not come to pay your respects to me?" said the Lion to the Fox. "I beg your Majesty's pardon," said the Fox, "but I noticed the tracks of the animals that have already come to you; and

continued . . .

while I see many hoof-marks going in, I see none coming out. Until those that have entered your cave come out, I prefer to remain in the open air."

It is easier to get into the enemy's toils than out again.



THE MULE'S BRAINS

The Lion and the Fox went hunting together. The Lion, on the advice of the Fox, sent a message to the Mule, proposing to make an alliance between their two families. The Mule came to the place of meeting, overjoyed at the prospect of a royal alliance. But when he came there the Lion simply pounced on the Mule, and said to the Fox: "Here is our dinner for today. You watch it while I go and have a nap and don't you dare touch my prey." The Lion went away and the Fox waited; but finding that his master did not return, he ventured to take out the brains of the Mule and ate them up. When the Lion came back he soon noticed the absence of the brains, and asked the Fox in a

continued . . .

terrible voice: “What have you done with the brains?”

“Brains, your Majesty! it had none, or it would never have fallen into your trap.”

Wit has always an answer ready.



THE EAGLE AND THE ARROW

An Eagle was soaring through the air when suddenly it heard the whizz of an Arrow, and felt itself wounded to death. Slowly it fluttered down to the earth, with its life-blood pouring out of it. Looking down upon the Arrow with which it had been pierced, it found that the shaft of the Arrow had been feathered with one of its own plumes. "Alas!" it cried, as it died. "We often give our enemies the means for our own destruction."

We often give our enemies
the means for our own destruction.



THE MILKMAID AND HER PAIL

A Milkmaid was walking to market carrying her milk in a pail on her head. As she went along she began calculating what she would do with the money she would get for the milk. "I'll buy some fowls from Farmer Brown," said she, "and they will lay eggs each morning, which I will sell to the parson's wife. With the money that I get from the sale of these eggs I'll buy myself a new dress and a new hat; and when I go to market, won't all the young men come up and speak to me! Polly Shaw will be that jealous…but I don't care. I shall just look at her and toss my head like this." As she spoke she tossed her head back, the Pail fell

continued . . .

off, and all the milk was spilt. So she had to go home and tell her mother what had occurred. “Ah, my child,” said the mother. “Do not count your chickens before they are hatched.”

Do not count your chickens
before they are hatched.



THE CAT-MAIDEN

The gods were once disputing whether it was possible for a living being to change its nature. Zeus said "Yes," but Venus said "No." So, to test the question, Zeus turned a Cat into a Maiden, and gave her to a young man for a wife. The wedding was duly performed and the young couple sat down to the wedding feast. "See," said Zeus to Venus, "how becomingly she behaves. Who could tell that yesterday she was but a Cat? Surely her nature is changed?" "Wait a minute," replied Venus, and let loose a mouse into the room. No sooner did the bride see this than she tried to pounce upon the mouse. "Ah, you see," said Venus.

[Create your own moral.]



THE HORSE AND THE MULE

A Horse and a Mule were traveling together, the Horse prancing along in its fine trappings, the Mule carrying with difficulty the heavy weight in its panniers. “I wish I were you,” sighed the Mule; “nothing to do and well fed, and all that fine harness upon you.” Next day, however, there was a great battle, and the Horse was wounded to death in the final charge of the day. His friend, the Mule, happened to pass by shortly afterwards and found him on the point of death. “I was wrong,” said the Mule. “Better humble security than gilded danger.”

Better humble security than gilded danger.



The Trumpeter Taken Prisoner

A Trumpeter during a battle ventured too near the enemy and was captured by them. They were about to proceed to put him to death when he begged them to hear his plea for mercy. “I do not fight,” said he, “and indeed carry no weapon; I only blow this trumpet, and surely that cannot harm you; then why should you kill me?” “You may not fight yourself,” said the others, “but you encourage and guide your men to the fight.”

Words may be deeds.



THE BUFFOON AND THE COUNTRYMAN

At a country fair there was a Buffoon who made all the people laugh by imitating the cries of various animals. He finished off by squeaking so like a pig that the spectators thought that he had a porker concealed about him. But a Countryman who stood by said: “Call that a pig’s squeak! Nothing like it. You give me till tomorrow and I will show you what it’s like.” The audience laughed, but next day, sure enough, the Countryman appeared on the stage, and putting his head down squealed so hideously that the spectators hissed and threw stones at him to make him

continued . . .

stop. “You fools!” he cried. “See what you have been hissing,” and held up a little pig whose ear he had been pinching to make him utter the squeals.

People often applaud an imitation
and hiss the real thing.



THE OLD WOMAN AND THE WINE-JAR

You must know that sometimes old women like a glass of wine. One of this sort once found a wine-jar lying in the road, and eagerly went up to it hoping to find it full. But when she took it up she found that all the wine had been drunk out of it. Still she took a long sniff at the mouth of the jar. "Ah," she cried, "What memories cling around the instruments of our pleasure."

What memories cling around
the instruments of our pleasure.



THE FOX AND THE GOAT

By an unlucky chance a Fox fell into a deep well from which he could not get out. A Goat passed by shortly afterwards, and asked the Fox what he was doing down there. “Oh, have you not heard?” said the Fox; “there is going to be a great drought, so I jumped down here in order to be sure to have water by me. Why don’t you come down too?” The Goat thought well of this advice, and jumped down into the well. But the Fox immediately jumped on her back, and by putting his foot on her long horns managed to jump up to the edge of the well. “Good-bye, friend,” said the Fox, “remember next time, ‘Never trust the advice of a person in difficulties.’”

Never trust the advice of a person in difficulties.



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- Belling the Cat
- The Belly and the Members
- The Buffoon and the Countryman
- The Bundle of Sticks

- The Cat-Maiden
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- The Fox and the Cat
- The Fox and the Crow
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- The Horse and the Mule
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- The Jay and the Peacock
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- The Man and the Wooden God
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- The Miser and His Gold
- The Mountains in Labor
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- The Nurse and the Wolf

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- The Shepherd's Boy
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- The Two Crabs
- The Two Fellows and the Bear
- The Two Pots
- The Wind and the Sun
- The Wolf and the Crane
- The Wolf and the Kid
- The Wolf and the Lamb
- The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing
- The Woodman and the Serpent
- The Young Thief and His Mother

INDEX OF MORALS

- A liar will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth.
- A little thing in hand is worth more than a great thing in prospect.
- All must work together.
- Any excuse will serve a tyrant.
- Appearances are deceptive.
- Better beans and bacon in peace than cakes and ale in fear.
- Better humble security than gilded danger.
- Better no rule than cruel rule.

- Better one safe way than a hundred on which you cannot reckon.
- Better starve free than be a fat slave.
- Beware lest you lose the substance by grasping at the shadow.
- Beware what you give to future enemies.
- Clumsy jesting is no joke.
- Cunning often outwits itself.
- Destroy the seed of evil, or it will grow up to be your ruin.
- Do not count your chickens before they are hatched.
- Do not trust flatterers.
- Do not trust interested advice.

- Enemies' promises were made to be broken.
- Example is the best precept.
- Familiarity breeds contempt.
- Fate helps them that help themselves.
- Fine clothes may disguise, but silly words will disclose a fool.
- Gratitude and greed go not together.
- Gratitude is the sign of noble souls.
- Greed often overreaches itself.
- He that is neither one thing nor the other has no friends.
- If you allow people to use you for your own purposes, they will use you for theirs.

- Injuries may be forgiven, but not forgotten.
- It is best to prepare for the days of necessity.
- It is easier to get into the enemy's toils than out again.
- It is easy to be brave from a safe distance.
- It is easy to despise what you cannot get.
- It is easy to propose impossible remedies.
- It is not only fine feathers that make fine birds.
- It is useless attacking the insensible.
- Kindness effects more than severity.
- Little by little does the trick.
- Little friends may prove great friends.
- Love can tame the wildest.

- People often applaud an imitation and hiss the real thing.
- Much outcry, little outcome.
- Never soar aloft on an enemy’s wings.
- Never trust a friend who deserts you at a pinch.
- Never trust the advice of a person in difficulties.
- No gratitude from the wicked.
- Nothing escapes the master’s eye.
- Obscurity often brings safety.
- One bad turn deserves another.
- One cannot be first in everything.
- Only cowards insult dying majesty.
- Outside show is a poor substitute for inner worth.

- People often grudge others what they cannot enjoy themselves.
- Please all, and you will please none.
- Plodding wins the race.
- Self-conceit may lead to self-destruction.
- She that has many friends, has no friends.
- Sorrow not over what is lost forever.
- Teach a child well.
- The strong and the weak cannot keep company.
- There is always someone worse off than yourself.
- Union gives strength.
- United we stand, divided we fall.

- Vices are their own punishment.
- We can easily represent things as we wish them to be.
- We often despise what is most useful to us.
- We often give our enemies the means for our own destruction.
- We would often be sorry if our wishes were gratified.
- Wealth unused might as well not exist.
- What memories cling around the instruments of our pleasure.
- When you are in a person's power you must do as they bid.
- Wit has always an answer ready.
- Words may be deeds.

- Yield to all and you will soon have nothing to yield.
- You cannot escape your fate.
- You may share the labors of the great, but you will not share the rewards.
- You will only injure yourself if you take notice of despicable enemies.
- [Create your own moral. (1)]
- [Create your own moral. (2)]
- [Create your own moral. (3)]
- [Create your own moral. (4)]

How to Create Your Own Glossary and Question Pages

The Question pages in this book are only an example what you can do with online books using Acrobat software. You can easily add questions to those we've supplied, or you might want to replace our questions entirely. You can also add a Glossary and link words in the fables to their definitions.

You can also use Acrobat Exchange to add notes to pages that can be saved with the book and printed as a separate file. You might want to use notes to define a word or phrase, to ask a question, or just to comment on something in the book. After adding your notes, you can use

the Create Notes File command to create a list of all the notes in the file: this procedure is a quick way, for example, to create a Glossary you can save and print as a separate file.

Adding or replacing pages in this book is a three-step process:

1 Use a word processing program to create a document with your question or glossary pages.

2 Use the PDF Writer (installed with the Acrobat Exchange program) to create a PDF file from your document.

3 Use the Exchange program to delete the original question pages and add the pages you made.

STEP 1: CREATE A DOCUMENT

You can use any word processing or page layout program to create your question document. The floppy disk containing Aesop's Fables, however, includes a Microsoft® Word template file for new question pages and for Glossary pages. If you use Microsoft Word, you can use the template files to create pages that look like the originals.

Note: The Microsoft Word template files do not use the same fonts and graphic elements that were used to create the fables. If you have a page layout program, you can create pages that look more like the fable pages.

To use the Microsoft Word template:

1 Copy the template file from the distribution disk to your hard disk. For Windows, the template files are called QUESTION.DOC and TEMPLATE.DOC. For the

Macintosh, the templates files are called Question Template and Glossary Template.

2 In Microsoft Word, open the template file, and then open a new file.

3 Select all the text on the template page and choose Copy from the Edit menu.

4 Select the new file, and choose Paste from the Edit menu. A copy of the template page is inserted at the beginning of your document.

5 To create additional pages, choose Page Break from the Insert menu and then choose the Paste command for each page you plan to make. Don't worry about making enough pages. You can always make more if you need them.

6 For each new page, replace the filler text with your own text. Save the file.

To create question or glossary pages with another word processor:

You can use any word processor or page layout program to make question or glossary pages. Keep in mind, however, the following points:

• Use a font that is available on the viewing computers. The Acrobat Reader program can make substitute fonts, but substitute fonts require memory and slow document display. The question template file uses Helvetica for titles and questions.

• Use a point size that is easy to read on-screen. The original question pages use 14-point type for the questions.

• Remember to put a “Return to fable” line at the end of your questions. Later you will use this line to create a link button that links the questions to the corresponding fable.

STEP 2: CREATE A PDF FILE

Use the instructions on the back of your Acrobat Exchange Quick Reference card or in the Exchange online guide to learn how to create a PDF file from your question pages.

STEP 3: INSERT THE NEW PAGES

To add new pages to the fables, open the fables document with the Exchange program and follow these steps:

1 If you want to replace pages, delete the originals. Choose Delete Page from the Edit menu and select a single page or a range of pages to delete.

2 Choose Insert from the File menu to add pages to the fables. Identify the PDF file you made from your question or glossary pages and tell the Exchange program where in the fables document to insert the new pages.

3 Choose Crop Pages from the Edit menu to trim the inserted pages to the size of the fable pages. For a standard US letter page, the correct crop margins for the fables are

Left: 50 Top: 72 Right: 79 Bottom: 332

Note: For Shakespeare's Sonnets, change the Left value to 90 and the Right value to 89.

4 Use the link tool in the Exchange program to create hypertext links between the new pages and the fables.

• To link the fables to the questions, click the link tool, double-click the link button surrounding the question mark on the fable page, go to the question page, and set the new link destination. Reverse this procedure for linking the questions to the fables.

- To link a word in a fable to the word's definition in the Glossary, use the technique described above for linking question pages to the fables. You might, however, want to create a visible link button around the defined term. With visible link buttons, readers can tell at a glance which words are defined in the Glossary.

Note: If you link more than one occurrence of a word to the Glossary, instruct your readers to use the Go Back button (or command) to return from the Glossary to the fable they were reading.

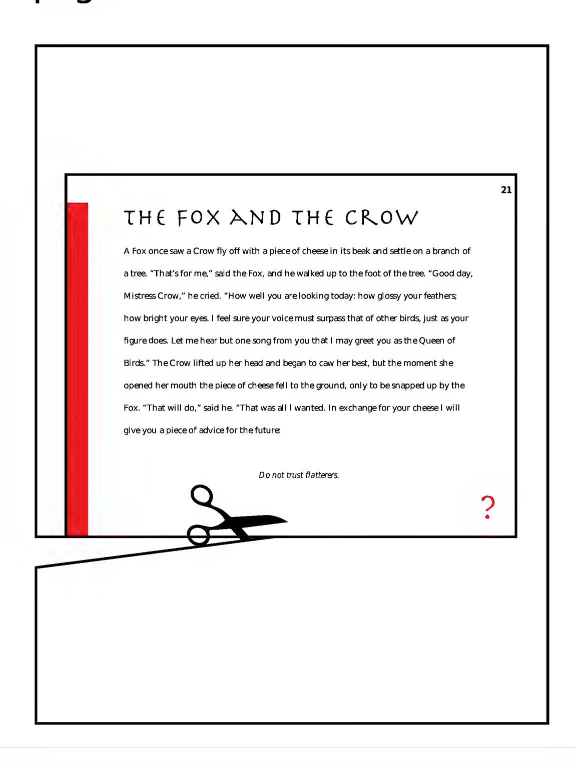
See the Exchange online guide for more information about using the link tool.

HOW TO PRINT AND MAKE YOUR OWN BOOK

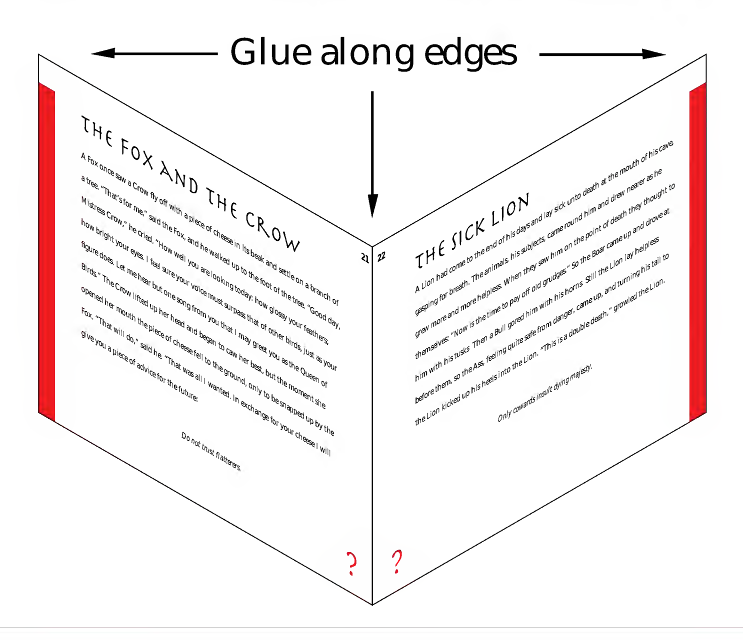
You can print all or any part of Aesop's Fables to make your own book. Choose the fables you want in your book, and then print them. For the best results, use a laser printer. If you want to include questions for the fables, print those pages, too.

Print the pages at full size; do not choose the printing option "Shrink to Fit." The book can be printed on laser printers capable of black-and-white, grayscale, and color.

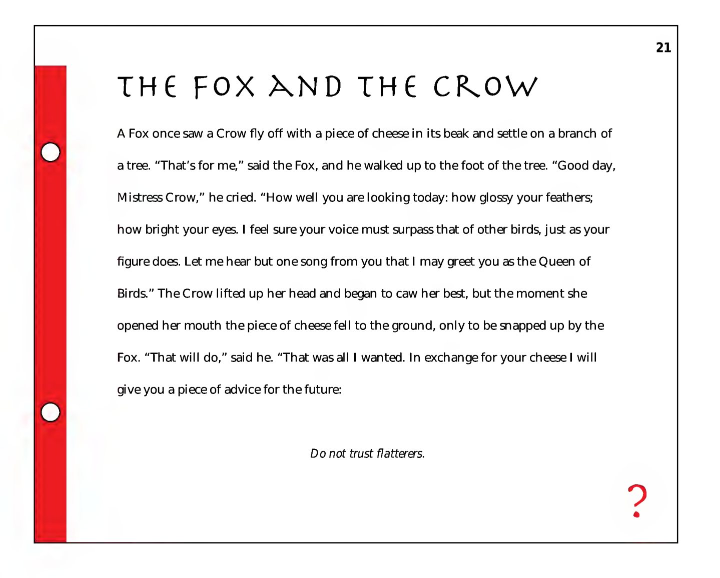
1 Print the pages. Put the pages in order. Use scissors to cut out the page. Cut around the black border on the page.



2 Beginning with the first page, paste the back of the even-numbered page to the back of the odd-numbered page so that the borders are aligned. Pages 1 and 2 go together, then pages 3 and 4, 5 and 6, and so forth. Make sure that the pages are pasted together correctly.



3 After the pages have dried, use a paper hole punch or binder hole punch to put two holes into each sheet at the same location throughout the book.



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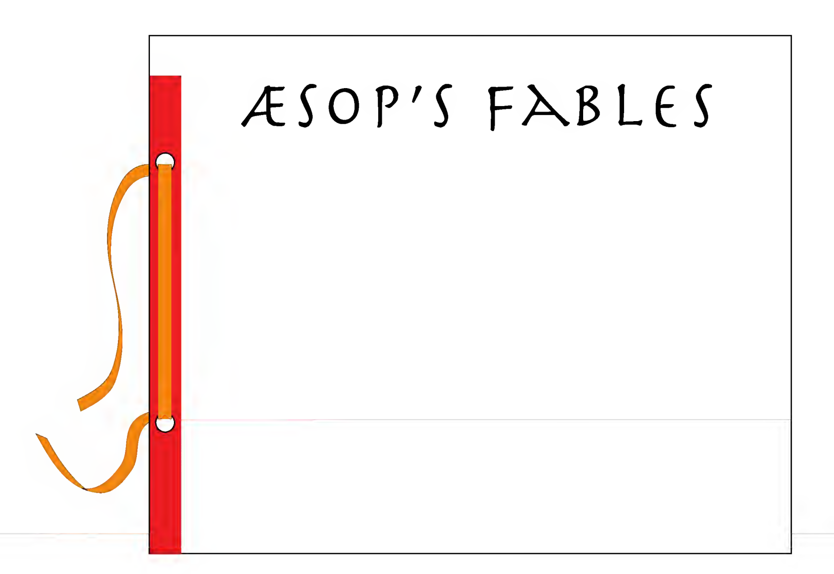
THE FOX AND THE CROW

A Fox once saw a Crow fly off with a piece of cheese in its beak and settle on a branch of a tree. “That’s for me,” said the Fox, and he walked up to the foot of the tree. “Good day, Mistress Crow,” he cried. “How well you are looking today: how glossy your feathers; how bright your eyes. I feel sure your voice must surpass that of other birds, just as your figure does. Let me hear but one song from you that I may greet you as the Queen of Birds.” The Crow lifted up her head and began to caw her best, but the moment she opened her mouth the piece of cheese fell to the ground, only to be snapped up by the Fox. “That will do,” said he. “That was all I wanted. In exchange for your cheese I will give you a piece of advice for the future:

Do not trust flatterers.

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4 Bind the book by inserting a string, shoelace, or piece of leather through the holes of the pages and tying a firm knot. Be sure to put the pages in order (the odd-numbered page should always be facing you). When the pages have been bound, use scissors to trim away any paper that sticks out from the rest. Use crayons or markers to color your favorite fables or draw your own illustrations.



FABLE QUESTIONS

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THE WOLF AND THE LAMB

1 Who is the tyrant in the fable? Why?

2 Give an example of yourself, or someone else, who has acted like a tyrant at one time or another.

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

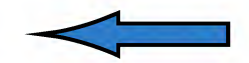
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THE DOG AND THE SHADOW

1 Why did the dog try to take the meat from his reflection? Was he hungry?

2 Do you think a dog would really do this? Why or why not?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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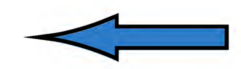
THE LION'S SHARE

1 Why did the fox walk away with his tail between his legs?

2 Did the fox deserve to have part of the reward?

3 Who do you think is saying the moral at the end of the story?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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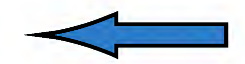
THE WOLF AND THE CRANE

1 Why do you think the crane helped the wolf?

2 Why did the crane ask the wolf for the reward?

3 Was the wolf right in refusing to give a reward to the crane? Why?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



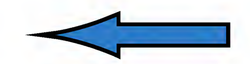
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THE MAN AND THE SERPENT

1 Why did the man bring honey and food to the snake?

2 Why did the snake refuse the food and honey from the man?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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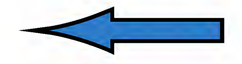
THE TOWN MOUSE AND THE COUNTRY MOUSE

1 Why did the mice go to the city?

2 Why did the country mouse go back home?

3 What is the difference between the country mouse and the town mouse?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



?

THE FOX AND THE CROW

1 Who is the flatterer in the fable?

2 What is the purpose of the flattery?

3 Why do you think the crow enjoyed being flattered?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



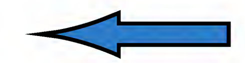
THE SICK LION

1 Why did the other animals attack the lion?

2 Why was the ass the last animal to attack?

3 A modern saying is “Don’t kick a person when they’re down.” Is that similar to this moral? Why? In what way is it different?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



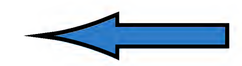
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THE ASS AND THE LAPDOG

1 Why did the ass imitate the dog?

2 What happened to the ass? Why?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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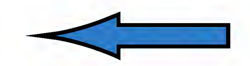
THE LION AND THE MOUSE

1 Why did the lion let the mouse go?

2 How did the mouse help the lion? Why?

3 Who learned something in this fable—the mouse or the lion? What did he learn?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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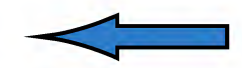
THE SWALLOW AND THE OTHER BIRDS

1 What is the seed of evil in the fable? Why?

2 What did the swallow tell the other birds to do? Why?

3 What are some examples of seeds of evil in the world today?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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THE FROGS DESIRING A KING

1 Why do you think Zeus sent the frogs a log instead of a king?

2 Why did the frogs ask for a second king?

3 Why did Zeus get angry?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

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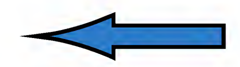
THE MOUNTAINS IN LABOR

1 What did the country folk think would happen?

2 Why is this fable called “The Mountains in Labor?”

3 Suppose the mountain actually did blow up. Can you think of a different moral to fit that ending of the fable?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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THE HARES AND THE FROGS

1 Why did the hares want to drown themselves?

2 Why did they decide not to?

3 What animals might the frogs see that would make them say the same thing the hares said?

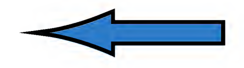
4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

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THE WOLF AND THE KID

1 Why did the kid yell at the wolf from the top of the house?

2 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?





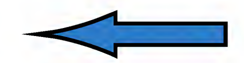
THE WOODMAN AND THE SERPENT

1 Why did the woodman pick up the serpent from the snow?

2 Why did the snake want to bite the children?

3 What did the woodman learn in the fable?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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THE BALD MAN AND THE FLY

1 Why did the man hit himself on the head?

2 Why did the man stop hitting himself?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

?

THE FOX AND THE STORK

1 How did the fox trick the stork?

2 How did the stork get back at the fox?

3 Why did the fox and stork play tricks on each other?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

?

THE FOX AND THE MASK

1 Why was the fox afraid when he first saw the mask?

2 What did the fox mean when he said, “It’s a pity you haven’t got any brains?”

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

?

THE JAY AND THE PEACOCK

1 Why did the peacocks pull the feathers off the jay?

2 Why were the other jays annoyed?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

?

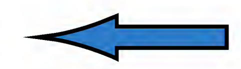
THE FROG AND THE OX

1 Why did the little frog think he had seen a monster?

2 Why did the father frog try to show his son that the ox was not so big?

3 Why did the father frog burst?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



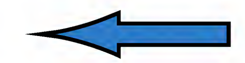


1 Why did Androcles help the lion?

2 Why did the lion become Androcles' friend?

3 What do you think the emperor learned when Androcles told him the whole story?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



?

THE BAT, THE BIRDS, AND THE BEASTS

1 Why didn't the bat want to join the birds or the beasts?

2 Why did both the birds and the beasts turn the bat away when he tried to join them?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

?

THE HART AND THE HUNTER

1 Why did the hart wish for sturdier legs?

2 How did the hunter catch up with the hart?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

?

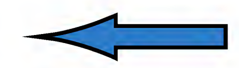
THE SERPENT AND THE FILE

1 Why did the snake attack the file?

2 What do you think “attacking the insensible” means?

3 What are some other examples of “attacking the insensible?”

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



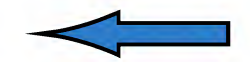
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THE MAN AND THE WOOD

1 Do you think the trees should have been suspicious when they saw the man with only the axe head?

2 How could the trees have avoided being cut down by the man's axe?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



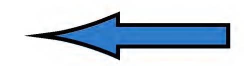
? THE DOG AND THE WOLF

1 Why did the house-dog want to help the wolf?

2 Find the fable "The Town Mouse and Country Mouse" and compare its story and moral with the story and moral of "The Dog and the Wolf."

3 Why did the wolf leave the house-dog?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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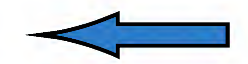
The Belly and the Members

1 What did the other body parts want the belly to do?

2 How did they try to force the belly to do what they wanted?

3 What did the body parts learn?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



?

The Hart in the Ox-Stall

1 Why do you think the master was able to find the hart?

2 Why didn't the stable boys or the hunter see the hart?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

?

THE FOX AND THE GRAPES

1 Why did the fox walk away from the grapes?

2 Why did the fox say the grapes were sour?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

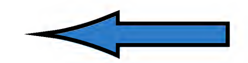
?

THE HORSE, HUNTER, AND STAG

1 Why did the horse go to the hunter?

2 Why did the hunter help the horse?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



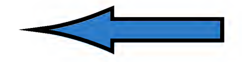
?

THE PEACOCK AND HERA

1 What did the peacock want from Hera?

2 Why did Hera refuse?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



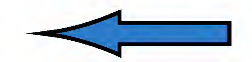
?

THE FOX AND THE LION

1 Why was the fox afraid when he first saw the lion?

2 How did the fox feel about the lion after the third meeting?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



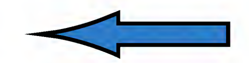
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THE LION AND THE STATUE

1 Why do you think the statue showed the man being stronger?

2 If the lion made the statue, do you think the statue would have been different? How?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



?

The Ant and the Grasshopper

1 Why did the ant tell the grasshopper to put food away for the winter?

2 Why did the grasshopper die?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

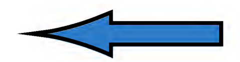
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THE TREE AND THE REED

1 What did the tree tell the reed?

2 Why did the reed feel safer than the tree?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



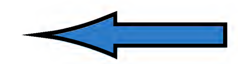
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THE FOX AND THE CAT

1 What did the fox tell the cat?

2 Why didn't the fox escape the hounds?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?





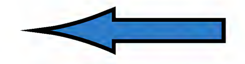
THE WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

1 How did the wolf trick the lamb?

2 Why did the lamb think the wolf was one of the sheep?

3 What are some examples of things that look safe but may be dangerous?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



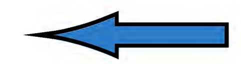
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THE DOG IN THE MANGER

1 How was the dog using the manger?

2 How did the ox want to use the manger?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



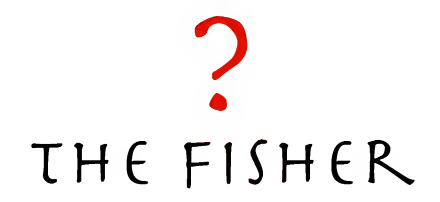
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THE MAN AND THE WOODEN GOD

1 What did the man want from the wooden idol?

2 Why did the man get angry?

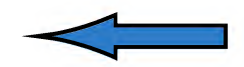
3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. What do you think would be a good moral for this fable?



1 Once the fisher had caught the fish in his net, the fish did whatever the fisher asked. Why?

2 Did the fish want to dance?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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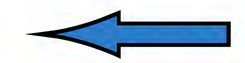
THE SHEPHERD'S BOY

1 Why did the boy lie?

2 What are some other problems the boy could have caused? Was his own life in danger?

3 Why didn't the villages believe the boy the last time he cried wolf?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



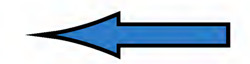
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THE YOUNG THIEF AND HIS MOTHER

1 How could the mother have helped her son when he stole small things as a boy?

2 Why do you think the mother did not punish her son when he stole things?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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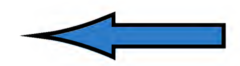
THE MAN AND HIS TWO WIVES

1 What did the man yield?

2 Can a person look both old and young at the same time?

3 Could this story have been about a woman who had two husbands?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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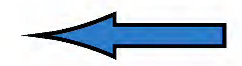
THE NURSE AND THE WOLF

1 Did the nurse really mean to throw the child to the wolf?

2 Why did the wolf believe the nurse?

3 How was the nurse an enemy to the wolf?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



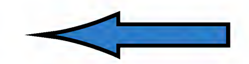
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TORTOISE AND THE BIRDS

1 What was the tortoise's mistake?

2 How could the tortoise have reached its new home safely?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

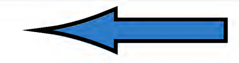


? THE TWO CRABS

1 Could the mother crab walk straight forward if she wanted to?

2 What does the word “accustom” mean as it is used in this fable?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



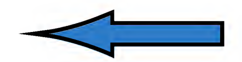
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THE ASS IN THE LION'S SKIN

1 Why was the donkey proud of himself?

2 Why wasn't the fox fooled?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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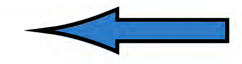
THE TWO FELLOWS AND THE BEAR

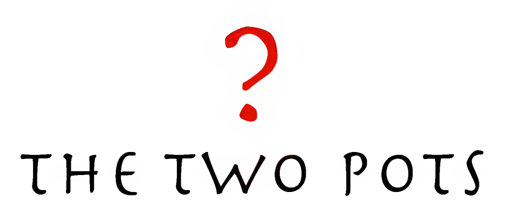
1 What does the phrase "in a pinch" mean?

2 Did the bear really whisper those words to the second fellow?

3 What would the first fellow have done if he were a true friend?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?





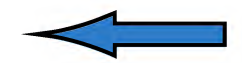
THE TWO POTS

1 What is an earthenware pot made of? Why would it break more easily than a brass pot?

2 Why wasn't the brass pot worried about hitting the earthenware pot?

3 Give some examples of some strong and weak things that cannot keep company.

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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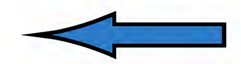
THE FOUR OXEN AND THE LION

1 Why couldn't the lion kill the oxen when they all stood together?

2 How could the oxen have stayed alive?

3 When people become divided, do they become stronger or weaker?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



?

THE FISHER AND THE LITTLE FISH

1 Do you think the little fish would have allowed itself to get caught later in the year?

2 Why did the little fish ask the fisher to let him go?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

?

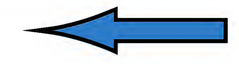
AVARICIOUS AND ENVIOUS

1 In the end, did either neighbor win? Why?

2 Why wasn't the neighbor satisfied with the two rooms of gold?

3 Bad habits and vices are the subject of most of Aesop's Fables. Can you name some other vices in the fables that make bad things happen?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

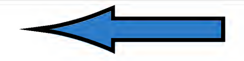


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THE CROW AND THE PITCHER

1 What would have happened to the crow if he had become impatient and left the pitcher?

2 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

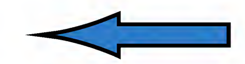


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THE MAN AND THE SATYR

1 Was the man's breath really hot and cold?

2 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. What do you think would make a good moral for this fable?



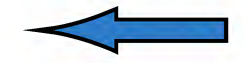


THE GOOSE WITH THE GOLDEN EGGS

1 What was the man hoping to find inside the goose?

2 Did the man get any more golden eggs after killing the goose?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

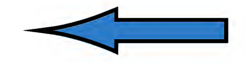


THE LABORER AND THE NIGHTINGALE

1 There are three popular morals to this fable: “Never believe a captive’s promise,” “Keep what you have,” and “Sorrow not over what is lost forever.” Which of the morals do you prefer? Why?

2 Why shouldn’t the laborer have trusted the nightingale?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



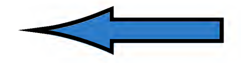
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THE FOX, THE ROOSTER, AND THE DOG

1 How did the rooster outwit the fox? Did he really see his master's dog?

2 Lying, exaggerating, and many other ways of presenting yourself falsely to others is a common theme in Aesop's Fables. Can you think of other examples of this theme in the other fables?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



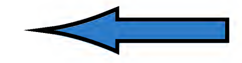
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THE WIND AND THE SUN

1 What does the sun represent?

2 Why couldn't the wind blow the man's coat off?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



?

HERCULES AND THE WAGONEER

1 Why didn't Hercules help the wagoneer?

2 What did Hercules want the wagoneer to do?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

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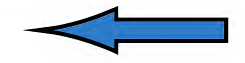
THE MAN, THE BOY, AND THE DONKEY

1 Why did the man and the boy tie the donkey on the pole?

2 What does Aesop mean (in the moral) that if you try to please everyone you will please no one?

3 How are the man and the boy in this fable like the man in "The Man and His Two Wives?"

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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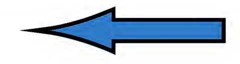
THE MISER AND HIS GOLD

1 Why did the miser look at his gold all the time?

2 How could the miser have avoided having his gold stolen?

3 What did the miser use his gold for? What might he have used it for?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



?

THE FOX AND THE MOSQUITOES

1 Why does the hedgehog offer to help the fox?

2 Why does the fox refuse his help?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. What do you think would make a good moral for this fable?

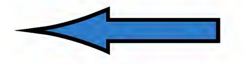
THE FOX WITHOUT A TAIL

1 Why did the fox try to convince the other foxes to give up their tails?

2 When the fox met with the other foxes he was "lobbying" for a decision. What does "lobbying" mean?

3 People who lobby for something are not always as motivated by personal interest as the fox was. How can you decide whether people are lobbying without personal benefit in mind?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

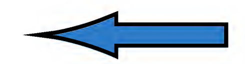


? THE ONE-EYED DOE

1 What does the word “fate” mean in the moral of the fable?

2 Why did the doe feel she was safe?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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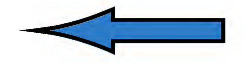
BELLING THE CAT

1 What was wrong with the idea of belling the cat?

2 What other "impossible remedies" might the mice have proposed?

3 Find the fable "The Crow and the Pitcher." The crow faced a problem but found a remedy. How was the crow's solution different from the solution suggested by the young mouse?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



?

THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

1 A hare can run much faster than a tortoise. Why did the tortoise win?

2 Can you think of other activities in which a slow and steady pace will win over a fast and impatient pace?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

?

THE OLD MAN AND DEATH

1 Did the woodcutter really wish to die?

2 Why did the woodcutter make a wish he didn't want to come true?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

?

The Hare with Many Friends

1 Were any of the animals truly the hare's friends?

2 Why didn't the animals want to help the hare?

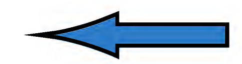
3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



1 How might the lion have argued for the daughter's hand without trimming his claws or removing his teeth?

2 Why didn't the girl's parents let the lion marry their daughter after he trimmed his claws and removed his teeth?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



?

THE BUNDLE OF STICKS

1 Why is it easier for all the sons to break the sticks individually than for one of the sons to break the bundle?

2 How are the old man's sons like the sticks?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

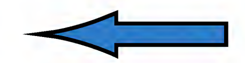
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THE LION, THE FOX, AND THE BEASTS

1 What happened to the animals who went into the lion's cave?

2 Why didn't the fox believe the lion was deathly ill?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



?

THE MULE'S BRAINS

1 Why shouldn't the mule have trusted the lion?

2 How did the fox's wit get him what he wanted?

3 Do you think the lion will fall for the fox's wit?

4 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?

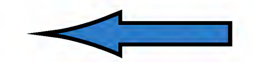
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THE EAGLE AND THE ARROW

1 What had the eagle given the hunter that led to the eagle's destruction?

2 Who is the eagle's enemy in the fable?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



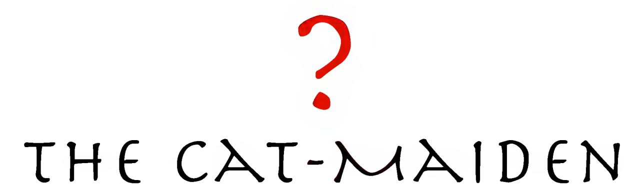
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THE MILKMAID AND HER PAIL

1 How did the maid think the pail of milk would lead to a dress and hat?

2 How could the maid have saved the pail of milk?

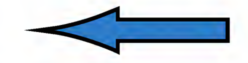
3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



1 What did Zeus believe? What did Venus believe?

2 How did they settle the argument? Who was right?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. What do you think would make a good moral for this fable?



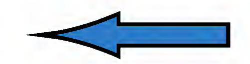
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THE HORSE AND THE MULE

1 Why did the mule envy the horse?

2 The mule said the horse had nothing to do, but that was wrong. What did the horse do?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



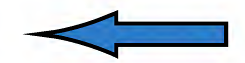


THE TRUMPETER TAKEN PRISONER

1 Why didn't the trumpeter think his enemies should kill him?

2 How did the trumpeter's playing his trumpet harm his enemies?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



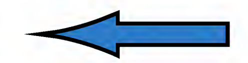
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THE BUFFOON AND THE COUNTRYMAN

1 How did the buffoon make people laugh?

2 What did the countryman say about the buffoon? How did he prove it?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



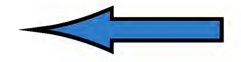


THE OLD WOMAN AND THE WINE-JAR

1 What was the old woman remembering when she smelled the wine jar?

2 Do you remember certain things when you smell something like freshly cut grass, smoke from a fireplace, or a certain kind of food?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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THE FOX AND THE GOAT

1 Why did the goat jump into the well?

2 Why did the fox want the goat to jump into the well?

3 Click the arrow below to reread the fable. How would you say the moral in your own words?



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